

VARI***LITE** TECHNICAL BULLETIN

SUBJECT: VLX Wash Luminaire Software Release	SERIES: VLX
DISTRIBUTION: Service Centers, End Users	STATUS: Routine

Introduction

Embedded Software Release

Vari-Lite has a new software release for VLX Wash Luminaires. Software version **07/16/10** (file name, **VLX_071610.bin**) is now available for download and installation. Vari-Lite strongly recommends all owners and users of the VLX Wash Luminaire download and install this new version of software from the Support section of the Vari-Lite web site (www.vari-lite.com). Please review this bulletin in its entirety before downloading and installing the software.

VLX Wash Luminaires manufactured on and after **07/26/10** will have this software installed.



Note: Programming adjustments may be necessary. Please contact your console manufacturer for any profile updates.

For instructions on downloading and installing VARI***LITE** luminaire software, refer to luminaire's user manual.

For more information on the USB Luminaire Programming Kit (Vari-Lite part number 28.8500.0054), please contact your Authorized VARI***LITE** Dealer or Vari-Lite customer service.

If you have any questions regarding this release or your VARI***LITE** product, please contact Vari-Lite Customer Service at 1-877-VARILITE (or +1-214-647-7880) or via e-mail at entertainment.service@philips.com.

Release Notes & Updated Channel Map

Updates to VLX Wash software (07/16/10):

Fixture ID

This version of VLX software introduces the use of Fixture ID. Fixture ID is used to generate the random functions in the strobe. Fixture ID is normally set to match the serial number of the fixture. It is, however, changeable via the menu system as follows:

Configure -> Change Lum ID -> XXXXXX

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IMPORTANT! Each VLX wash must have a unique and different Fixture ID (no matter what the number happens to be). Because Random Strobe function is linked to the unit's Fixture ID, luminaires with the same Fixture ID will operate the same when random strobing is desired.

Status Indicator LEDs

This version of VLX software introduces the "data transmit and receive status indicator" LEDs on the display board. When DMX is present, the Rx (data receiving) LED will flash rapidly. When no DMX is present, the Rx will flash slowly. The Tx (transmitting data) LED will flash rapidly when sending software or fixture data from the sending fixture. Conversely, the receiving fixtures will flash Rx LED.

Status LEDs can be turned ON or OFF via the Control Channel (in conjunction with the LCD Display - see ["Display ON and OFF"](#)). For Control Channel information, please refer to ["Updated Channel Map"](#).

Pan & Tilt Operation

The pan/tilt operation has been modified to support more effectively the use of a top hat and/or other accessories mounted to the nose of the fixture.

Menu Button Shortcuts

In this version of VLX wash software, Vari-Lite has implemented some useful menu button shortcuts. These shortcuts are:

Action	Buttons	Comments
LUMINAIRE RESET	[ESC] and [UP ARROW] (simultaneously)	Resets luminaire.
DISABLE PAN/TILT	[UP ARROW] and [DOWN ARROW] (simultaneously)	Disables pan and tilt operation. Luminaire will not respond to any DMX pan or tilt commands until pan and tilt is enabled by user.
LED QUICK TEST*	[ENTER] and [UP ARROW] (simultaneously)	LED Quick Test is a useful tool to check the operation of all LEDs. The fixture will check operation of all 28 individual LEDs, one color at a time, in the order of each driver board. For example, the test will scroll Red LED 1, Red LED 2, Red LED 3, Red LED 4, Red LED 5, Red LED 6, Red LED 7, Pause, Green LED 1, Green LED 2, Green LED 3, and so on through all LEDs.
DISABLE MOTORS ON POWER UP	Power up fixture and press/ hold [ESC] until DMX address appears in LCD display.	Temporarily disables all motors in Luminaire (during power up routine only). Useful for addressing fixtures in their cases.

Tilt Sensor Software Issue Fix

This version of VLX software has fixed an issue discovered in a previous version (01/27/10) of software. The issue involved the tilt sensor, which the sensor would intermittently send an error message after a fixture re-calibration. This issue is now resolved and tilt operation will calibrate properly.

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Display ON and OFF

Vari-Lite has added a feature to the luminaire's Control Channel to turn ON or turn OFF the backlight on the luminaire's LCD Display AND Status LEDs (see ["Status Indicator LEDs"](#) for their operation) via a control console. Refer to ["Updated Channel Map"](#) of this technical bulletin for more details.

To change display ON / OFF setting, set control channel (23) to DMX value of 3 - 4, hold value for at least 3 seconds, and then give a discreet 0 value.

Manual Color Adjustment of Luminaire Color Calibration

This version of VLX software allows for a manual adjustment of the color calibration that is stored within the fixture's Main Control Board (MCB). Manual color adjustments will provide the user the ability to "visually match" the color and intensity between multiple fixtures should they desire to. LED Correction must be turned ON for the manual color adjustment to be applied. There are two ways to access the manual color and intensity adjustment as described herein.

Manual Color Adjustment Through the Luminaire Menu System

The first way to adjust colors is manually through the menu system. The manual color adjustment is located in the menu path:

Configure -> LED Modes -> LED Correction (Must be turned ON) -> Field Adj

As shown in [Figure 1-1](#), a window will appear in the LCD Display that will allow access to Red (R), Green (G), Blue (B), and Dimmer (D) parameters that can be adjusted as desired.

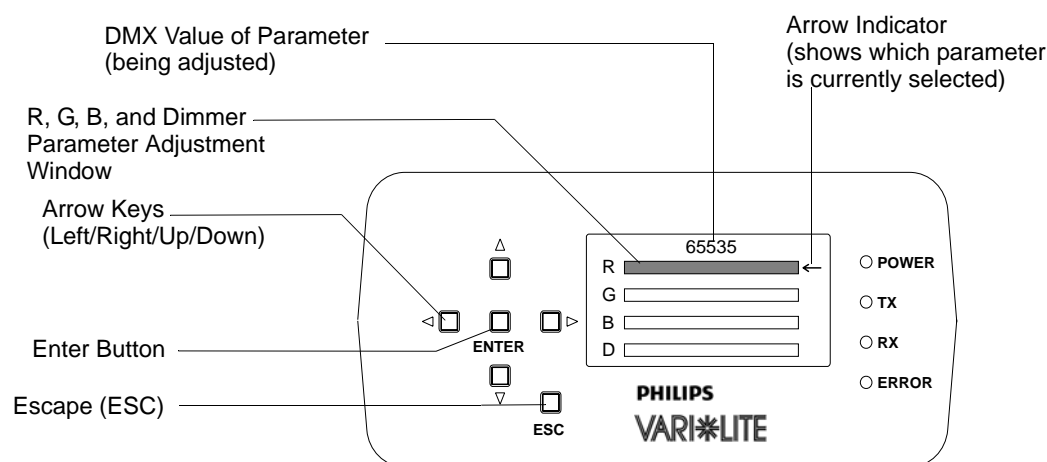


Figure 1-1: Manual Color Adjustment - LCD Display

To adjust Red, Green, Blue, and Dimmer (Intensity) values in through the menu system:

- Step 1. Luminaire must be powered and all values (R, G, B, and D) should be set manually to 100%

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Step 2. Access Field Adj section of menu system as follows:

Configure -> LED Modes -> LED Correction (Must be turned ON) -> Field Adj

Step 3. Using UP and DOWN arrow keys, select parameter to adjust.

Step 4. Using LEFT and RIGHT arrow keys, adjust parameter.

Step 5. Repeats Steps 3 and 4 as desired for each parameter until preferred color is achieved.

IMPORTANT! Pressing ESC (escape) while in this menu will automatically store the adjusted values with the LED correction. When LED Correction is turned ON, any adjustments you've made will be reflected. To return back to the factory calibration, simply adjust the R, G, B, and D back to the values of 65535.

Manual Color Adjustment Through a Control Console

Note: Before adjustment through the fixture control channel can be done, a proper console profile is required. Please contact your console manufacturer for any profile updates.

The other way to manipulate the color adjustment is via the control console. After making sure color calibration is ON, set control channel (23) to a DMX value of 121-122, hold value for at least 3 seconds then set control channel to a DMX value of 0 (discreet value, without scaling). This will set the fixture into a color calibration "adjustment mode".

While in Adjustment Mode modify Red, Green, Blue and/or Dimmer channels to desired color / intensity. Once color is determined, set control channel to a DMX value of 124-125, hold for at least 3 seconds, then give a DMX value of 0. This will store the values into the color calibration.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- After the value of "0" is given during control console adjustment, the color or output of the fixture - as the user has adjusted it - will suddenly change. If the user returns Red, Green, Blue, and/or Dimmer values for the luminaire back to full from the desk, the fixture will then match the color (s) and/or intensity values that they have adjusted.
- Any adjustments to the calibration that have been made through the menu system or via the control channel may be viewed via the adjustment window on the luminaire itself as values of less than 65535 on the display bars for each of the four parameters. Values of less than 100% on any of these parameters indicate that a manual adjustment has been performed on the fixture and stored.
- To return back to the factory calibration, simply adjust the R, G, B, and D back to the values of 65535.

Note: See "[Updated Channel Map](#)" of this technical bulletin for the additional Control Channel values for this functionality.

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Updated Channel Map

Below is an updated channel map for the VLX wash luminaire. Note, changes/additions (for this version of software) are indicated in **bold**.

DMX Channel	Parameter	Range DMX	Range%	Default ***	Description
1	Intensity - High Byte	0 - 65535	0 - 100%	0	16 bit control for intensity of LED settings
2	Intensity - Low Byte				
3	Pan - High Byte	0 - 65535	0 - 100%	32768	16 bit control for Pan - 540° of movement
4	Pan - Low Byte				
5	Tilt - High Byte	0 - 65535	0 - 100%	32768	16 bit control for Tilt - 270° of movement
6	Tilt - Low Byte				
7	Red - High Byte	0 - 65535	0 - 100%	0	16 bit control of Red LEDs from 0 to full
8	Red - Low Byte				
9	Green - High Byte	0 - 65535	0 - 100%	0	16 bit control of Green LEDs from 0 to full
10	Green - Low Byte				
11	Blue - High Byte	0 - 65535	0 - 100%	0	16 bit control of Blue LEDs from 0 to full
12	Blue - Low Byte				
13	White - High Byte	0 - 65535	0 - 100%	0	16 bit control of White LEDs from 0 to full
14	White - Low Byte				
15	Not used	N/A	N/A	N/A	For Future Use
16	Not used	N/A	N/A	N/A	For Future Use
17	Beam Spreader	0 - 255	0 - 100%	0	Controls beam angle from 23° (DMX 0) to 58° (DMX 255)
18	Strobe	0 - 255	0 - 100%	0	Controls strobe operations as follows: Open = DMX 0 - 2 Closed = DMX 3 - 5 Slow Rand = DMX 6 - 7 Med Rand = DMX 8 - 10 Fast Rand = DMX 11 - 12 Strobe Range = DMX 13 - 127 (fastest) Pulse + Slow Rand = DMX 128 - 129 Pulse + Med Rand = DMX 130 - 131 Pulse + Fast Rand = DMX 132 - 133 Pulse + Range = DMX 134 - 191 Pulse - Slow Rand = DMX 192 - 193 Pulse - Med Rand = DMX 194 - 195 Pulse - Fast Rand = DMX 196 - 197 Pulse - Range = DMX 198 - 255
19	Intensity Time	0 - 255	0 - 100%	255	Allows for luminaire timing of intensity. Profile should default to DMX 255 for smoothest console fade times. See user manual for more information.
20	Focus Time	0 - 255	0 - 100%	255	Allows for luminaire timing of pan and tilt. Profile should default to DMX 255 for smoothest console fade times. See user manual for more information.
21	Color Time	0 - 255	0 - 100%	255	Allows for luminaire timing of LEDs. Profile should default to DMX 255 for smoothest console fade times. See user manual for more information.
22	Beam Time	0 - 255	0 - 100%	255	Allows for luminaire timing of zoom and intensity. Profile should default to DMX 255 for smoothest console fade times. See user manual for more information.

Note, Updated Channel Map continued on next page.

23	Control	0 - 255	0 - 100%	0	<p>Used to set different modes, parameters, and functions of the VLX wash. Set control channel value for desired action. Hold value for at least 3 seconds. Set control channel value to 0 without any scaling. See User Manual for more info or examples.</p> <p>Default Setting on Console = DMX 0</p> <p>Display On/Off = DMX 3-4</p> <p>Reset All to Defaults* = DMX 5 - 7</p> <p>Quiet Mode† = DMX 11 - 13</p> <p>Level Light Mode† = DMX 14 -16</p> <p>Constant Fans Mode† = DMX 17 - 19</p> <p>Normal Mode† = DMX 20 - 22</p> <p>Dimmer Curve LINEAR† = DMX 31 - 32</p> <p>Dimmer Curve SQUARE LAW† = DMX 34 - 35</p> <p>Full Luminaire Reset = DMX 81 - 87</p> <p>Color Calibration OFF† = DMX 116 - 117</p> <p>Color Calibration ON† = DMX 118 - 120</p> <p>Manual Color Adjust ENABLE† = DMX 121 - 122</p> <p>Manual Color Adjust STORE† = DMX 124 - 125</p> <p>Fixture Sleep = DMX 245 - 249</p> <p>Fixture Wake Up* = DMX 250 - 255</p>
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Notes:

* When resetting to defaults (DMX 5 - 7), the following will be enabled on the luminaire - Normal Mode, Dimmer Curve SQUARE LAW, and Color Calibration ON.

**Please note that Fixture Wake Up will completely re-calibrate the fixture.

† These settings require the Command Lock in Menu to be set to OFF in order to change on Control Channel. Resetting to defaults (DMX 5 - 7) will turn Command Lock OFF.

*** Defaults values are recommended console default values